

The Times-Dispatch INDUSTRIAL SECTION

THE TIMES FOUNDED 1886.
THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1860.

WHOLE NUMBER 17,887.

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1908.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

ROANOKE BECOMES A JOBBING CENTRE

Magic City's Financial and
Business Solidity Is Panic
and Boom-Proof.

MONEY PLENTIFUL; BUSINESS BETTER

Optimistic and Ambitious Roanoke
Are Claiming Third
Place Among Virginia Cities
and Propose to Try for
Second—Immense
Business.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent.)
ROANOKE, VA., February 15.—Roanoke is called the "Magic City" because it grew in so short a time from the straggling village of Big Lick to a vigorous, active and solid city under the name of Roanoke. The story of that magical growth has been so often told in print it is not necessary to more than refer to it here, but every time it is put in print it reads like a romance, and there are many readers who accept the truthful account of the city's wonderful strides from village insignificance to metropolitan importance with many grains of allowance or with a solemn repetition of the old saw that "truth is stranger than fiction."

And It Was Very Solid.

There are magic growths of various kinds, and some are of the mushroom variety, but that which made Roanoke the wonder of easy-going old Virginia was of the solid kind, so solid that no panic has ever jostled it or impeded its progress. Even the awful collapse of the famous boom of the eighties did not vary far in the matter of population, Roanoke in the main profited by and grew fat on that noted town lot craze.

Roanoke now has a population of near 35,000, and in the matter of business transacted, in the matter of purchasing power, and in many other respects, as well as in the matter of population, its optimistic citizens claim that it is now the third city in Virginia, and they do not hesitate to express their firm belief and conviction that this time is not very far in the future when Roanoke will hold second place.

I am not here to discuss this question, but judging by the record the city has made in the two past decades, by the business energy and enterprise, and by some wonderful facts and figures that are before me, it is not hard to believe there is a strong probability that these optimistic prophets may prove to be good soothsayers in their day and generation.

Built for All Time.

In manufactures, in mercantile lines, in social life and in financial solidity Roanoke is second to no city of its size in the South. A mere glance at the principal streets and the long rows of magnificent buildings, both business and residential, is sufficient to convince the visitor that no city in the South is more solidly built. And yet there is room for more manufactures and more business of all kinds, and, as bright as has been Roanoke's past, it does not require the eye of a prophet to foresee for this city a vastly brighter future.

Telling Facts and Figures.

A few figures taken from the books of the four banks here, which are as strong and as ably managed as any financial institutions in Virginia or in the South, will show the financial solidity of the Magic City.

The total resources of the four banks amount to about \$5,000,000, and their surplus and reserve funds to nearly \$750,000.

The Roanoke banks have never issued "scrip" at any time, and during the stringency of the past fall and up to this good day they have paid out nothing but cash; they have met the enormous pay rolls that prevail here, they have supplied business houses with all necessary funds to keep things moving, and, in addition, they have shipped to out-of-town banks and firms large amounts of cash to care for wages, pay rolls and business interests that were in normal times looked after by local banks.

Splendid Bank Showings.

On the first day of January the exchange National Bank had loaned out nearly \$3,000,000, its splendid building, vaults, furniture and fixtures were valued at \$100,000, and it held United States bonds to the amount of \$300,000, not including over \$9,000 deposited with the United States Treasury, and it held other bonds amounting to \$150,000. At the same date the deposits in this bank were \$2,657,700. The exchange's capital stock is \$250,000, while its surplus, reserve fund and undivided profits on hand aggregates \$313,000. On the date named the bank had in hand and in easy reach cash to the amount of over \$700,000.

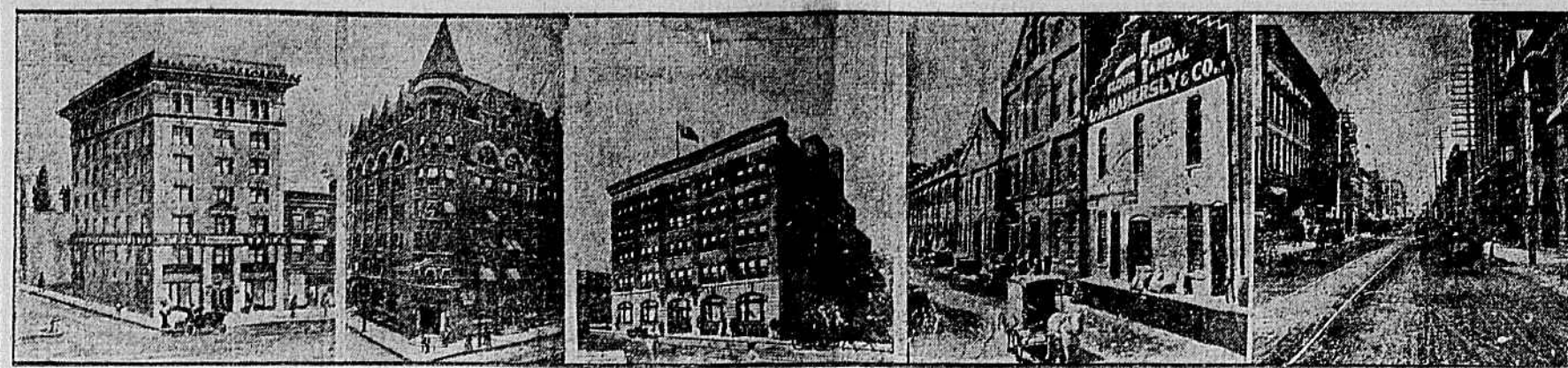
The showings of the First National Bank on January 1st were equally as good as those of the National Exchange, and on their books is carried this unique entry: "Bills payable (for banking house property, payment of which the bank will not accept until maturity), \$50,000."

The City National Bank has a capital of \$200,000; undivided profits and interest reserve fund, \$37,000. Their loans and discounts amount to \$534,000, and the total of resources is \$935,344. The American Savings Bank, the youngest and as yet smallest of the four, has a capital stock paid up to the amount of \$50,000; surplus and profits, \$55,500, and the total of its resources is \$287,000. The deposits amount to \$1,815,500 and the loans foot up \$237,640.

Thousands of Wage-Earners.

I will reserve for a future letter the history and present status of Roanoke's rapid rise and wonderful progress in manufactures. Suffice it to say that the machine shops, the car works, the flouring mills, the woodworking factories, the knitting mills, the overall factories, the breweries, the wagon and buggy factories, the shoe factories, the fertilizer works, the bridge and

GROUP OF THE LEADING BUSINESS HOUSES OF ROANOKE



Roanoke's Newest Skyscraper.

RICHMOND MAN TO BUILD NEW SEWERS

Contract for Putting in System at
Blackstone Will Be Given
to Mr. Smith.

BUILD NEW HANDLE FACTORY

Work Being Pushed With Vigor,
and Plant Soon to Be in
Operation.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

BLACKSTONE, VA., February 15.—The town was full of contractors the first portion of the week, being called here to bid upon the sewer works to be installed during the spring and summer. The time set for receiving the bids was 3 o'clock on Tuesday, and bids from seven reliable firms were received. These came from Richmond, Norfolk, Norfolk, Tenn., Oxford, N. C., and Hickory, N. C. J. J. Smith, of Richmond, was the lowest bidder, and to him the contract will be awarded as soon as the full committee can be gotten together.

Work upon the system is to be begun in the immediate future and pushed to completion. Along with the installation of the sewer system will come improvements to the water works. These are to be enlarged, and the supply, which at times has been inadequate, is to be increased. The appropriation for the entire work is \$25,000.

New Handle Factory.

Work on the new handle factory, to replace the one burned some time ago, is being pushed rapidly as possible, and the hope is entertained that everything will be in readiness to resume operations in a short while.

The fire, which consumed the old plant, was the most disastrous that has visited Blackstone in a long while, entailing a total loss of about \$25,000. The site of the new plant is upon the Blackstone and Lunenburg Railroad, just in rear of Hoge Academy, and will be constructed upon a different plan from the old. A storage house is to be built apart from the main factory for the reception of the manufactured product. This plant has done a large business, and the fire has thrown many out of employment.

The handsome new Spencer Building, on the corner of Main and Broad Streets, in the business centre of the town, will soon be ready for occupancy, only a little inside work remaining to be done. This will be one of the handsomest buildings in town, and will add much to the looks of things, aside from its intrinsic value.

SIGN OF BUSINESS REVIVAL

Evidence of an Awakening on the Good
Roads Question.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
ROANOKE, VA., February 15.—It is said that the iron and structural business is an unfailing barometer by which men may judge of business and the business revival set in, for this being true, there is evidence in the offices of the Roanoke Bridge Company that the panic is about over and the business revival set in, for they are booking more orders this week than at any time since the business depression commenced last fall.

This company, which has built bridges with the counties of Virginia and North Carolina in the matter of supplying the largest number of bridges in the country. The increased inquiry from boards of supervisors in Virginia and on boards of county commissioners in North Carolina indicates that the sovereigns are at last waking up to the necessity of good roads, for good roads are the great bridges across the country, and the bridge business is the backbone of the country.

President E. C. McComb, of the Roanoke Bridge Company, looks for a general business revival, and the bridge and structural iron business.

Cotton Receipts Large.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WILMINGTON, N. C., February 15.—Up to date the cotton receipts for Wilmington this cotton season have been \$1,838,000, or 283,000 bales, for a similar period last year. This has smashed all records for this port and in dollars and cents has figured out to be about \$27,000 more than the receipts for the same period last year. The cotton receipts for this season have been 421,725 bales, and there are still steamers leading at the compress. The cotton receipts for Wilmington of any season previous to this big one were 375,000 bales, while now the receipts are going towards the 500,000 mark.

Big Land Company Formed.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., February 15.—The Secretary of State has issued a charter for the East Winston Land Company of this city. This concern has an authorized capital of \$125,000, with \$15,000 already subscribed. The incorporators are W. B. and J. R. Taylor, W. H. Wheeler, W. E. Franklin and others.

It is the intention of the company to do an extensive business and to develop the eastern section of the city. It is understood that the land of the company will embrace that owned by R. J. Reynolds, Dr. Wheeler and other



National Exchange Bank Building.

Brand Shoe Company's New Store.

The Stone Printing and Manufacturing Company.

Wholesale Row.

Wills & Willauer's New Department Store.

Jefferson Street Looking North from Luck Avenue.

How Elephants, Hippopotami and Rhinoceroses Are Shot in the Wilds.

Lions and Leopards, However, Are Free—Big Bags Made by Americans.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Nairobi.

British East Africa is the land of big game, and Nairobi is the chief place where hunters outfit their parties for shooting the lions, elephants, hippopotami, rhinoceroses, antelopes, gnus, giraffes and other wild animals which infest it. As I write this letter several large parties are here preparing to go out "on safari," as such hunts are called. The Norfolk Hotel is filled with them, and behind it are scores of black half-naked porters and tent boys, packing sporting goods into boxes, laying in provisions and arranging things for the march. There are head men, rounding up the porters and giving each his load. There are gun-bearers seeing to the arms and ammunition, and there are the sportsmen themselves, some clad in khaki, some wearing riding breeches and leggings, and all in thick helmet hats.

In the big yard upon which my hotel rooms look I can see piles of tusks, heads, horns and skins from hunting parties which have just returned, and in one corner is the baby lion of which I have already written. Among the sportsmen are several eminent Englishmen, and in the hotel itself are both lords and ladies, some of the latter having come out to try a shot at a lion or so. During this last year two women have shot lions here, and one of the biggest man-eaters ever killed in East Africa came down through a bullet from a gun in the hands of an American girl.

Last Year's Hunting Bag.

There is to me no game here that almost any one who goes out "cannot" fall to bring back something. The bag for last year numbered over 3,000 head, and this was shot by sportsmen from England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, India, Australia, North America and New Zealand. Many excellent shots were made by Yankees, and some of the best by an expedition sent out by the Field Columbian Museum, consisting of Mr. V. Shaw Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Akely and Mr. E. Heller. This party started out on the Athi plains, an enormous plateau east of here, which just swarms with zebras, antelopes, gnus and other wild animals, and from there made its way north and south. It secured specimens of almost every description for the museum, and has been a great success.

Abundance of Game.

Among the animals which were killed were twelve lions, including a magnificent blackmaned brute, which was killed on the Molo River. Mr. Kennedy himself shot no less than seven lions, and of these four were males and three females. He killed also two elephants, and a rhinoceros. The party was accompanied by Messrs. Phipps and Havemeyer, who together shot five lions and killed a score of other kind of big game.

Nobility Out Shooting.

As to the English hunters, their name is legion, and those who have recently been here have included many of the nobility.

Lord Hindlip, who is one of the largest landlords of this colony, owning more than 100,000 acres, has made several flying expeditions from his country home, and has succeeded in obtaining two large elephants and a splendid buffalo. The Earl of Cowley, who came here on his way home from Ceylon, bagged several water buffaloes and a rhinoceros, and Lord and Lady Waterford have killed a lion, which they stalked through the long grass in company with their bearers. Lady Waterford was a quarter of a mile distant when she saw two men clad in khaki go down before the charge of a wounded lion, and could not tell whether her husband stood or fell. By a miracle neither man lost his life. They were both gunbearers, his lordship being off to the side. Later, Lord Waterford shot an elephant at Nloro, and secured a fine pair of tusks.

During a visit of his royal highness, The Duke of Connaught, now about two years ago, he made some pretty shooting over the Kapiti plains, but did not stay long enough to get a lion or an elephant. General Baden-Powell was here at about the same time, and his brother, Mr. Frank Baden-Powell, then shot a frisk rhinoceros which had but one horn, and that over twenty-seven inches long. Lord and Lady Montgomery and Mr. William Mure killed five lions, and Mr. Mure got an elephant with eighty-two pounds of ivory on his tusks.

Continental Counts and Barons.

As to ordinary Brits, they have killed a large number of big game of all kinds, and the same is true of some of the continental counts and barons of other nations.

The Marquis Pizzardi, for instance,

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light during the past week on account of unfavorable weather conditions. Prices on that offered have been higher than known here for a long while. One load of 1,210 pounds, constituting a barn, was sold for an average of \$18.45 per hundred, which is fine for dark tobacco.

A good "season" for handling the weed is now on, and it is expected that next week will prove a record-breaker, as it is known that only about 40 per cent. of the crop has been marketed, and a rush will now be made to get it off hand preparatory to beginning the new crop. Usually this per cent. of the crop, and even more, is marketed before Christmas.

Following are the prices that have prevailed here this week: Lugs, \$5.50 to \$8.00; good lugs, \$5.00 to \$10.00; short leaf, \$5.50 to \$11.50; long leaf, \$11.00 to \$14.00; wrappers, \$15.00 to \$30.00.

Petersburg Sales Light.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
PETERSBURG, VA., February 15.—Messrs. Craddock & Jones report on the week:

Sales light the past week, but on account of the very favorable weather for handling, we look for large receipts next week. Market continues active on all grades. Quotations are as follows:

Common lugs \$ 6.00 to \$ 7.50
Good lugs 7.50 to 9.00
Short leaf 8.00 to 9.50
Long leaf 10.00 to 14.00
Shipping 10.00 to 15.00
Fine wrappers 15.00 to 30.00

Rocky Mount Market.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., February 15.—Despite the warm, seasonable weather prevailing this week, the receipts have been light, though larger than last week, showing that the crop in this section is about all sold. The general impression is that with good weather it will be completely exhausted before the 15th of March. The quality of the offerings has not been up to standard, consisting of common, nondescript leaf and lugs, lacking in body and character, and more or less green—stock altogether undesirable from a buyer's standpoint. Prices have been well maintained all along the line, and the buyers eagerly watch every pile, save the rehandled shipped stock, which seems to be more or less neglected.

Preparations continue for the new crop, which it is thought will be slightly increased in acreage over the past season.

South Boston's Fine Prices.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

SOUTH BOSTON, VA., February 15.—While the break of tobacco market has been quite so large on this market during the past week, due to ugly weather, the market never seemed in better condition. The average price paid for the weed is larger than any previous known in the history of the market, and the planter, warehouseman and buyer all seem delighted over the season's record and future prospects. The common and medium grades continue to bring high prices, and the average remains about the same as reported last week.

Winston-Salem Sales.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., February 15.—The long looked for tobacco season arrived yesterday, and with it came hundreds of wagons from adjoining counties, loaded with leaf, the kind that has made this section famous. The breaks this week have been quite large, and prices have averaged over 12 cents a pound. Unless there is a decided change in climatic conditions, the market will have big sales for several days, as the leaf is in splendid condition for handling.

Henderson Market.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

HENDERSON, N. C., February 15.—The break on the Henderson market this week were light, but prices good. Following are the quotations: Fine wrappers, 35 to 45; medium, 25 to 35; fine cutters, 18 to 25; medium, 12 to 18; fine smokers, 10 to 14; medium, 6 to 10; fine fillers, 10 to 14; medium, 6 to 10.

Dispensary Pays Very Well.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

HENDERSON, N. C., February 15.—The receipts of the Henderson dispensary, reported by the manager, E. G. Butler, Esq., for the year 1907, amounted to \$14,043.11, a small increase, compared with the sales of the preceding year. There will, however, be quite a reduction in the sales of liquor at this dispensary, the present year, owing to a law having been enacted during the session of the late Legislature making it a misdemeanor for persons to ship liquors to residents of prohibition towns or cities; to do so the shipper is liable to indictment.

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